

Industrial Sickness Absenteeism

Rates for Specific Causes in 1952 for the year and last two quarters

Year 1952 Men and Women

The 1952 rate for sickness and nonindustrial injuries among men is approximately the same as for 1951—130.9 and 131.2 absences per 1,000 men, respectively. With only a few exceptions, the 1952 rates for specific causes and the corresponding 1951 rates do not differ greatly (table 1).

Among women, the 1952 overall rate of 344.9 is 9 percent above the 1951 rate of 315.1. The rate for the nonrespiratory-nondigestive disease group is 27 percent above the 1951 rate.

A comparison of the rates for men and women in the broad cause groups shows that rates for women in the respiratory and the nonrespiratory-nondigestive groups are approximately three times the corresponding rates for men. For nonindustrial injuries and the digestive group the rates for women are only about half again as large as the corresponding rates for men. On the other hand, the men employees had higher rates than women in 1952 for tuberculosis of the respiratory system; diseases of

the stomach except cancer; hernia; and diseases of the heart.

Years 1943-1952

An inspection of the previously published year-to-year rates for the 10 years, 1943-52, disclosed for both men and women an upward trend in the frequency of sickness and nonindustrial injuries that began in 1950 and continued through 1952. The upward trend among women was more pronounced than among men. Indeed, the 1952 rate for women (344.9) was the highest of the 10 annual rates, exceeding the 10-year average (262.2) by 32 percent.

Frequency by Duration

During 1952 approximately 7 of every 1,000 men and 8 of every 1,000 women experienced an illness that caused them to be away from work for more than half of the year (table 2). These absences were due primarily to nonrespiratory diseases. For both men and women only one-fifth of the respiratory absences lasted more than 1 month, whereas, more than one-half of the nonrespiratory absences lasted more than 1 month.

Days of Disability

The disability rate of 6.6 days per man in 1952 corresponds closely with the rate of 6.4 in 1951. Women averaged 13.2 days of disability in 1952 compared with 11.9 in 1951, approximately twice as many days of disability as the men. Among both the men and women, more than half of the lost time was due to nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases (table 3).

Prepared by W. M. Gajafar, D.Sc., in charge of the statistical services of the Division of Occupational Health, Public Health Service, this report continues the series on industrial sickness absenteeism. Data are derived from periodic reports of industrial sick benefit organizations and are limited to sickness and nonindustrial injuries causing absence from work for more than 1 week. The report for 1951 and the first half of 1952 appeared in Public Health Reports, March 1953, pp. 353-357.

Table 1. Absences per 1,000 persons by cause—sickness and nonindustrial injuries disabling for 8 consecutive days or longer—years 1952, 1951, and 1943-52¹

Cause ²	Number of absences per 1,000 persons beginning in specified period					
	Males			Females		
	1952	1943-52 ³	1951	1952	1943-52 ³	1951
Sickness and nonindustrial injuries	130.9	123.2	131.2	344.9	262.2	315.1
Percent of female rate.....	38	47	42			
Percent of male rate.....				263	213	240
Nonindustrial injuries (169-195)	16.0	13.0	15.9	23.2	17.8	19.2
Sickness	114.9	110.2	115.3	321.7	244.4	295.9
Respiratory diseases	37.9	43.0	41.7	130.4	107.8	136.7
Tuberculosis of respiratory system (13).....	.7	.7	.6	.4	.5	.5
Influenza, gripe (33).....	11.8	16.3	16.1	31.0	35.6	52.7
Bronchitis, acute and chronic (106).....	5.6	6.9	6.2	12.8	11.5	11.1
Pneumonia, all forms (107-109).....	5.4	5.3	5.8	5.5	4.4	7.7
Diseases of pharynx and tonsils (115b, 115c).....	3.9	4.5	3.6	17.7	16.4	14.8
Other respiratory diseases (104, 105, 110-114).....	10.5	9.3	9.4	63.0	39.4	49.9
Digestive diseases	23.3	19.2	22.3	36.9	32.2	34.6
Diseases of stomach except cancer (117, 118).....	7.2	6.2	7.0	4.5	3.8	4.5
Diarrhea and enteritis (120).....	3.4	2.5	2.9	12.0	7.3	9.6
Appendicitis (121).....	4.0	4.0	4.5	6.4	10.9	9.4
Hernia (122a).....	3.7	2.7	3.4	.8	.7	.2
Other digestive diseases (115a, 115d, 116, 122b-129).....	5.0	3.8	4.5	13.2	9.5	10.9
Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases	51.0	44.3	48.1	148.9	99.1	117.6
Infectious and parasitic diseases (1-12, 14-24, 26-29, 31, 32, 34-44) ⁴	4.5	2.9	3.7	24.6	9.0	13.6
Cancer, all sites (45-55).....	1.0	.7	1.1	1.1	.7	.9
Rheumatism, acute and chronic (58, 59).....	3.6	4.4	3.5	5.7	4.7	4.4
Neurasthenia and the like (part of 84d).....	1.6	1.9	1.7	16.9	13.1	16.1
Neuralgia, neuritis, sciatica (87b).....	2.0	2.6	2.2	4.0	3.0	2.8
Other diseases of nervous system (80-85, 87, except part of 84d, and 87b).....	2.3	1.9	2.1	5.6	2.6	3.4
Diseases of heart (90-95).....	5.6	4.7	5.3	2.1	2.3	1.8
Diseases of arteries and high blood pressure (96-99, 102).....	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.5
Other diseases of circulatory system (100, 101, 103).....	5.7	4.4	4.9	10.1	6.7	7.2
Nephritis, acute and chronic (130-132).....	.4	.4	.4	.2	.4	.4
Other diseases of genitourinary system (133-139).....	5.3	3.7	4.8	31.9	23.0	30.5
Diseases of skin (151-153).....	4.0	3.6	3.6	6.6	5.7	4.9
Diseases of organs of movement except diseases of joints (156b).....	3.8	3.6	3.6	10.6	6.9	9.7
All other diseases (56, 57, 60-79, 88, 89, 154, 155, 156a, 157, 162).....	8.8	7.2	8.9	27.5	19.5	20.4
Ill-defined and unknown causes (200)	2.7	3.7	3.2	5.5	5.3	7.0
Average number of persons.....	176, 235	2, 189, 728	173, 853	15, 890	209, 468	15, 154

¹ Industrial injuries and venereal diseases are not included. ² Numbers in parentheses are disease title numbers from International List of Causes of Death, 1939. ³ Average of the 10 annual rates. ⁴ Exclusive of influenza and gripe, respiratory tuberculosis, and venereal diseases.

Men
Last Half
1952

During the last half of 1952 the sickness absenteeism rate among men employees for the third quarter was 103.8 per 1,000 men and for the fourth quarter, 123.1.

While the fourth quarter rates are generally higher than those for the third quarter, the rates for 1952, for either quarter, are remarkably similar to the corresponding rates for 1951 (table 4).

Table 2. Absences per 1,000 persons by duration—sickness and nonindustrial injuries disabling for 8 consecutive days or longer—year 1952

Duration of absence in calendar days	Sickness and non-industrial injuries ¹		Nonindustrial injuries		Respiratory diseases		Nonrespiratory diseases ²	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
8 or longer.....	149.9	347.0	15.3	23.6	43.9	127.7	90.7	195.7
8-28.....	87.4	207.6	8.3	12.1	35.4	102.1	43.7	93.4
29-56.....	31.0	74.8	3.6	6.3	5.5	19.0	21.9	49.5
57-91.....	14.1	35.3	1.8	2.8	1.4	4.1	10.9	28.4
92-183.....	10.5	21.4	1.1	2.0	.7	1.7	8.7	17.7
184 or longer.....	6.9	7.9	.5	.4	.9	.8	5.5	6.7

¹ Industrial injuries and venereal diseases are not included.

² Digestive diseases, nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases, and ill-defined and unknown causes are included.

NOTE: Average number of persons: males, 55,506; females, 13,480. These workers are members of 10 reporting organizations paying benefits for 26 or 52 weeks.

Table 3. Summary of disability data—sickness and nonindustrial injuries disabling for 8 consecutive calendar days or longer—years 1952 and 1951

Cause ¹	Males		Females	
	1952	1951	1952	1951
Number of days of disability per person				
Sickness and nonindustrial injuries.....	6.6	6.4	13.2	11.9
Nonindustrial injuries.....	.7	.6	1.0	.9
Respiratory diseases.....	1.1	1.3	3.0	2.9
Digestive diseases.....	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4
Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases.....	3.5	3.3	7.7	6.7
Number of days of disability per absence				
Sickness and nonindustrial injuries.....	43.9	43.7	37.9	39.4
Nonindustrial injuries.....	44.3	41.9	41.6	45.6
Respiratory diseases.....	26.0	25.5	23.1	23.4
Digestive diseases.....	47.8	47.5	40.7	44.1
Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases.....	54.5	58.3	48.6	53.5
Number of absences per 1,000 persons				
Sickness and nonindustrial injuries.....	149.9	146.7	347.0	302.2
Nonindustrial injuries.....	15.3	14.8	23.6	19.0
Respiratory diseases.....	43.9	49.8	127.7	125.8
Digestive diseases.....	26.3	25.0	36.9	32.8
Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases.....	64.4	57.1	158.8	124.6
Average number of persons ²	55,506	55,853	13,480	12,831

¹ Industrial injuries and venereal diseases are not included. Ill-defined and unknown causes are included in the nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases.

² These workers are members of 10 reporting organizations paying benefits for 26 or 52 weeks.

Table 4. Absences per 1,000 male employees by cause (annual basis)—sickness and nonindustrial injuries disabling for 8 consecutive calendar days or longer—third and fourth quarters, 1952¹

Cause ²	Number of absences per 1,000 males beginning in specified period			
	Fourth quarter		Third quarter	
	1952	1951	1952	1951
Sickness and nonindustrial injuries	123.1	125.0	103.8	109.3
Nonindustrial injuries (169-195)	14.8	16.1	17.4	17.3
Sickness	108.3	108.9	86.4	92.0
Respiratory diseases	33.4	33.7	18.2	21.8
Tuberculosis of respiratory system (13).....	.6	.5	.5	.5
Influenza, grippe (33).....	8.0	8.7	3.8	5.1
Bronchitis, acute and chronic (106).....	6.1	6.6	2.6	3.7
Pneumonia, all forms (107-109).....	5.3	4.7	2.7	3.2
Diseases of pharynx and tonsils (115b, 115c).....	3.7	3.5	2.5	2.8
Other respiratory diseases (104, 105, 110-114).....	9.7	9.7	6.1	6.5
Digestive diseases	23.6	22.2	20.1	22.6
Diseases of stomach except cancer (117, 118).....	8.4	7.6	5.8	6.6
Diarrhea and enteritis (120).....	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.4
Appendicitis (121).....	4.1	3.9	3.5	4.8
Hernia (122a).....	2.8	3.7	3.3	3.1
Other digestive diseases (115a, 115d, 116, 122b-129).....	4.7	4.1	4.4	4.7
Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases	48.5	49.9	45.7	44.3
Infectious and parasitic diseases (1-12, 14-24, 26-29, 31, 32, 34-44) ³	3.8	3.2	3.3	2.9
Rheumatism, acute and chronic (58, 59).....	3.3	3.6	3.0	3.0
Neurasthenia and the like (part of 84d).....	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.9
Neuralgia, neuritis, sciatica (87b).....	2.3	2.3	1.7	1.8
Other diseases of nervous system (80-85, 87, except part of 84d, and 87b).....	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Diseases of heart and arteries, nephritis and high blood pressure (90-99, 102, 130-132).....	9.1	8.7	6.7	6.2
Other diseases of genitourinary system (133-138).....	4.9	5.2	5.1	4.3
Diseases of skin (151-153).....	3.6	3.5	4.2	4.3
Diseases of organs of movement except diseases of joints (156b).....	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.3
All other diseases (45-57, 60-79, 88, 89, 100, 101, 103, 154, 155, 156a, 157, 162).....	14.2	16.0	14.9	14.4
Ill-defined and unknown causes (200)	2.8	3.1	2.4	3.3
Average number of males.....	174, 594	173, 679	174, 353	174, 068

¹ Industrial injuries and venereal diseases are not included. ² Numbers in parentheses are disease title numbers from International List of Causes of Death, 1939. ³ Exclusive of influenza and grippe, respiratory tuberculosis, and venereal diseases.

